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18 FEB 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDA Planning Officer

FROM:

Policy and Plans Group  
Office of Security

25X1

SUBJECT: Report on the Snow Emergency of 11 February 1983

1. Attached is a report and related recommendations prepared by the Chief, Headquarters Security Branch (C/HSB), a first hand observer and the man responsible for coping with many of the emergency situations that developed because of the severity of the storm. I concur in his recommendations with the following observations:

° It is imperative that a member of the DDA's staff be designated as a control officer/coordinator. This individual would honor the authority of individual components to perform those functions for which they are responsible and not interfere unless a crisis demands application of resources that can be spared. He would be "in charge" in the sense he can determine priorities and act accordingly to meet an overriding need, but his main function would be to act as the focal point or nerve center to be advised of any problems that hinder a coordinated operation.

° It is essential that each component designate an individual who can speak and act for his unit. This ties in with the absence of official emergency related information and the negative impact of such absence on HSB. HSB is the traditional and logical place to direct emergency related questions, but branch personnel should be able to refer calls and inquiries on non-security matters and not attempt to cope with issues relating to personnel decisions, medical problems, etc.

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° The recommendation concerning a shortage of essential manpower is not intended as a criticism. Emergency planning has not been high on the Agency's priority list for several years and it would be an injustice to single out instances of unpreparedness in a situation where the general response was admirable and unselfish. The point made is that HSB does not have the manpower or expertise to do it all and, as a matter of basic security, must not be diverted from its primary mission to safeguard the physical security of Agency facilities.

° The recommendation that more four wheel drive vehicles is justified; such vehicles are essential to weather emergencies and are available in design that would not restrict utilization for routine transportation needs. However, the recommendation does not preclude exploration of the feasibility of using privately owned four wheel drive vehicles. It must be remembered that the additional vehicles and the supplies mentioned are geared to service to a small percentage of the Agency population. A worst case situation of the type under discussion is not addressed and should be as a phase of definitive planning.

2. This memorandum and the attached report are forwarded with the understanding that any findings and recommendations resulting therefrom will be coordinated with members of the DA emergency planning group. I will be happy to assist if any further information is required from the Office of Security.

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